GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:565
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
COMPENSATION TO LANDMINE VICTIMS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that - hundreds of common citizens are either losing their lives or suffering disability in the Indian territory falling along Pakistan border due to landmines having not been cleared properly;

(b) if so, tl:te facts and details thereof;

(c) whether adequate compensation is not being paid for damage caused due to the landmines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the amount of compensation being paid to the lanumine victims;

(e) whether the residents eyicted from the areas where landmines were laid, have to face a lot of difficulties in the absence of any rehabilitation scheme; and

(f) if so, the corrective measures being taken to provide relief and security to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (0 OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 565 FOR 5.5.2005

Mine laying activities are intrinsic part of the Army`s operational philosophy and are guided by operational considerations for ensuring territorial integrity. Layiilg of mines and demining is carried out in accordance with well laid down procedures. It was observed during `Operation Parakram` that some incidents of fatal and non fatal casualties occurred resulting in loss of life or disability. This could be due to various reasons like accidental straying into the minefields by human beings or cattle, sinking or drifting away of mines due to the nature of ground and terrain as well as environmental conditions or tugging of mines by rodents leading to their displacement from the original site.

To provide relief to the victims and their families, Government issued detailed policy guidelines in March 2002 and January 2003 to provide compensation to the farmers whose land was utilised for laying mines as also `Ex-gratia` Compensation Package tor Land Mine civilian casualties. The compensation is paid to the land mine victims as per the established procedure.

Separately, compensation is alsQ paid to the farmers whose land is utili~ed for mine laying.

A sum of Rs. 294.87 Cr approximately has been paid in the last three years (upto 31st March 2005) as compensation to land mine victims and also towards crop and rental compensation. With the efforts put in by the Army, almost the entire land which was taken for laying mines, has now been cleared.

In addition, sanction has also been accorded by the Government in January 2004 to provide miificiallimbs to the victims of land mine blasts to facilitate their rehabilitation.